

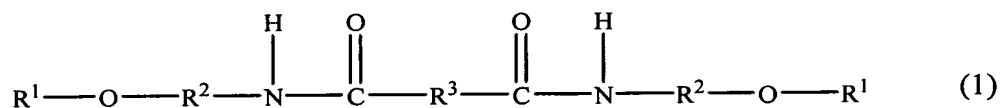
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A hair cosmetic composition comprising the following ingredients (A) and (B):

(A) 0.1 to 20 wt. % based on the whole composition of a higher alcohol, or a fatty acid or a salt thereof; and

(B) a diamide compound represented by the following formula (1):



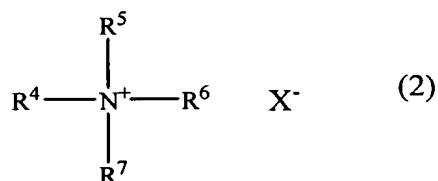
wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched C<sub>1-12</sub> hydrocarbon group which may be substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups and/or alkoxy groups, R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched, divalent C<sub>1-5</sub> hydrocarbon group, and R<sup>3</sup> represents a linear or branched, divalent C<sub>1-22</sub> hydrocarbon group.

2. (original) A hair cosmetic composition according to claim 1, comprising as ingredient (B) a diamide compound of formula (1) in which R<sup>3</sup> is a linear or branched C<sub>11-22</sub> alkylene group or a linear or branched C<sub>11-22</sub> alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds.

3. (original) A hair cosmetic composition according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a surfactant as ingredient (C).

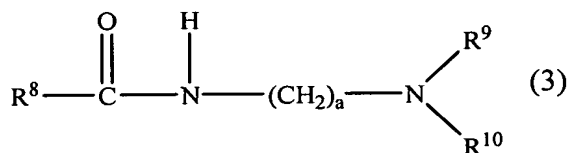
4. (original) A hair cosmetic composition according to claim 3, comprising one or more cationic surfactants as the whole or a part of ingredient (C).

5. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 3, wherein said surfactant is at least one of a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following formula (2)



wherein at least one of  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$ ,  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  is a  $\text{C}_{8-30}$  alkyl or alkenyl group or a  $\text{C}_{8-22}$  alkoxy, polyoxyalkylene, alkylamido, hydroxyalkyl, aryl or alkylaryl group and the remaining group or groups are each independently a  $\text{C}_{1-22}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_{2-22}$  alkenyl,  $\text{C}_{1-22}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_{4-22}$  polyoxyalkylene,  $\text{C}_{2-22}$  alkylamido,  $\text{C}_{1-22}$  hydroxyalkyl,  $\text{C}_{6-22}$  aryl or  $\text{C}_{7-22}$  alkylaryl group, and  $\text{X}^-$  represents a halide ion, methosulfate ion or saccharinate ion;

or an amidoamine represented by the following formula (3)



wherein  $\text{R}^8$  represents a linear or branched,  $\text{C}_{11-25}$  alkyl or alkenyl group,  $a$  denotes an integer of from 1 to 4, and  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group with a proviso that  $\text{R}^9$  and  $\text{R}^{10}$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time.

6 (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 3, wherein said surfactant is at least one quaternary ammonium salt selected from the group consisting of cetyltrimethylammonium chloride, lauryltrimethylammonium chloride, stearyltrimethylammonium chloride, behenyltrimethylammonium chloride,  $\text{di}(\text{C}_{12-18}$  alkyl)dimethylammonium chloride, distearyldimethylammonium chloride, isostearyl lauryldimethylammonium chloride, and benzalkonium chloride.

7. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 3, wherein said surfactant is at least one amidoamine compound selected from the group consisting of dimethylaminoethyl palmitamide, diethylaminoethyl palmitamide, dimethylaminopropyl palmitamide, diethylaminopropyl palmitamide, dimethylaminoethyl stearamide, diethylaminoethyl stearamide, dimethylaminopropyl stearamide, diethylaminopropyl stearamide, monoethanolaminoethyl stearamide, diethanolaminoethyl stearamide, dimethylaminoethyl arachidonamide, diethylaminoethyl arachidonamide, dimethylaminopropyl arachidonamide, diethylaminopropyl arachidonamide, dimethylaminoethyl behenamide, diethylaminoethyl behenamide, dimethylaminopropyl behenamide, and diethylaminopropyl behenamide.

8. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 3, wherein said surfactant is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt. % based on the whole composition.

9. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a protein or a ceramide.

10. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 9, wherein said composition comprises at least one protein selected from the group consisting of silk protein, keratin, elastine, collagen, lactoferin, casein,  $\alpha(\beta)$ -lactoalbumin, globulins, ovalbumin, silk protein, proteins extracted from wheat, proteins extracted from malt, proteins extracted from oat, proteins extracted from barley, proteins extracted from corn, proteins extracted from rice, proteins extracted from soybeans, proteins extracted from broadbeans, proteins extracted from lupine seeds, proteins extracted from potatoes and proteins extracted from apricot kernels, and hydrolysates thereof.

11. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 9, wherein a protein is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 wt. % based on the whole composition.

12. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 9, wherein said composition comprises at least one ceramide selected from the group consisting of N-acylated sphingosines, N-acylated phytosphingosines and N-acylated dihydrosphingosines.

13. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 9, wherein a ceramide is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 wt. % based on the whole composition.

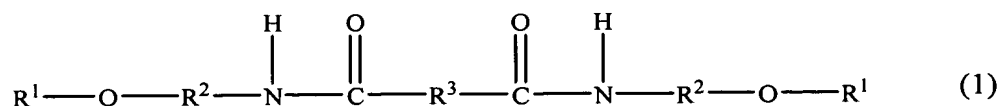
14. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one silicone derivatives selected from the group consisting of dimethylpolysiloxane, methylphenylpolysiloxane, amino-modified silicones, polyether-modified silicones, epoxy-modified silicones, fluorine-modified silicones, cyclic silicones, alkyl-modified silicones and oxazoline-modified silicones.

15. (new) The hair cosmetic composition of claim 14, wherein said silicone derivative is present in an amount of 0.01 to 20 wt. % based on the whole composition.

16. (new) A hair cosmetic composition comprising the following ingredients (A) and (B):

(A) a higher alcohol, and

(B) a diamide compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein  $R^1$  represents a linear or branched  $C_{1-12}$  hydrocarbon group which may be substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups and/or alkoxy groups,  $R^2$  represents a linear or branched, divalent  $C_{1-5}$  hydrocarbon group, and  $R^3$  represents a linear or branched, divalent  $C_{1-22}$  hydrocarbon group.